

Remarks

Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 8-47 are pending.

Claims 8-41 were allowed.

Claims 43 and 46-47 were indicated allowable if written in an independent format.

Claims 43 and 47 have been written in an independent format as requested by the Office. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 43 and 47 (and claims 42 and 44-46 which depend thereon) are now allowable.

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 44 has been amended as requested by the Office. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 42 and 44-45 were rejected as obvious pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gilovich (US 4,186,977) in view of Siler (US 6,042,001) and Woodward (US 5,803,563). As previously discussed, claims 42 and 44-45 now depend from allowable claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

Other claims have been amended to correct typographical errors and/or improve the readability of the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Reasons in support of amendment entry

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims avoid the objections and rejections because they now recite the subject matter indicated allowable by the Office. The amended claims do not raise the issue of new matter because the subject matter therein has already been claimed and examined (and indicated allowable). The amendment also does not present additional claims. Nor do the amended claims present new issues requiring further consideration or search, because the subject matter therein was previously claimed and examined. Furthermore, the claims have been amended as recommended by the Office. Additionally, in like manner, even an amendment after an appeal is permitted entry to rewrite dependent claims into independent form (37 CFR § 41.33(b)(2) and MPEP § 1206). The amendment also places the application in condition for allowance. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment should be entered.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully continue to traverse the rejections. Nevertheless, claims have been amended to advance prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to file another application (e.g., a divisional application) relating to any claim.

The undersigned is willing to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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